

REMARKS

At the time the Official Action was mailed, claims 1-13 and 28-30 were pending in the present application. In the Official Action, the Examiner allowed claims 8-13 and 28-30, objected to claims 2-4, 6 and 7 and rejected claims 1 and 5. In view of the allowable subject matter, Applicants have chosen to place the application in condition for allowance. However, it should be noted that Applicants do not necessarily agree with the Examiner's rejections.

Based on the Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter, independent claim 1 has been amended to include the subject matter originally recited in allowable dependent claim 2. Accordingly, claim 2 has been canceled. Further, claim 6 has been amended to include the subject matter originally recited in independent claim 1. Newly independent claim 6 now recites an alternative combination of allowable subject matter as indicated by the Examiner. Applicants respectfully submit that claims 1, 3-13 and 28-30 are now in condition for allowance.

Conclusion

Applicants thank the Examiner for the indication of allowance of claims 8-13 and 28-30. In view of this indication of allowable subject matter, as well as the remarks and amendments set forth above, Applicants respectfully request allowance of claims 1, 3-13 and 28-30. If the Examiner believes that a telephonic interview will help speed this application toward issuance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

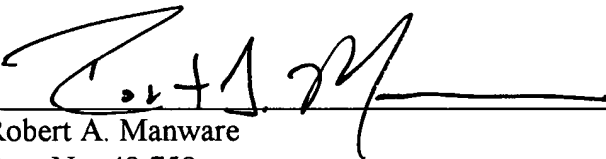
General Authorization for Fee Payments and Extensions of Time

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.136, Applicants hereby provide a general authorization to treat this and any future reply requiring an extension of time as incorporating a request

therefore. Although the present response is believed to be timely filed, Applicant hereby authorizes the Commissioner to charge the appropriate fee for any necessary extension of time, to Deposit Account No. 13-3092; Order No. MICS:0105/(03-0346). Furthermore, Applicant hereby authorizes the Commissioner to charge the appropriate fee for new independent claim 6 to the aforementioned Deposit Account. No additional fees are believed to be due.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: February 3, 2005

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R. A. Manware', is written over a horizontal line.

Robert A. Manware
Reg. No. 48,758
FLETCHER YODER
P.O. Box 692289
Houston, TX 77269-2289
(281) 970-4545